

COVID-19 Vaccination and Masking Requirements

May 17, 2021

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is adopting guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding [public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people](#).

Anyone who is fully vaccinated can participate in indoor and outdoor activities — large or small — without wearing a mask or physically distancing. Studies show that vaccines are effective at preventing illness, hospitalization and death, and vaccinated individuals are less likely to spread the virus. The U.S. is sequencing viruses to identify variants, and vaccines are effective against currently circulating variant viruses.

While recommendations can change to require masking again for vaccinated individuals, this is less likely when more people are vaccinated since there will be fewer cases and a smaller chance for new spikes in cases or additional variants emerging.

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine

If you don't meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking all precautions until you are fully vaccinated.

When Should Fully Vaccinated Individuals Mask?

There are certain settings where vaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks — either due to close proximity, high turnover of individuals, individuals being at higher risk for severe disease, co-mingling of individuals from multiple different locations, or co-mingling of individuals with varied vaccination statuses (including settings with children who are too young to be vaccinated). These settings include:

- Communal and public transportation and within airports and stations (planes, trains, buses, etc.)
- Schools and school buses — including teachers, staff and students
- Healthcare settings — including hospitals, long-term care facilities and doctors' offices
- Correctional facilities — including staff and inmates/detainees/offenders when applicable
- Homeless shelters

Masks should still be worn where required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules and regulations.

Masks should still be worn in private businesses and workplaces which require them.

Fully vaccinated people with conditions or medications that weaken the immune system should consult with their healthcare providers to decide if they should continue taking all precautions (including masking).

Fully vaccinated individuals who wish to further reduce risk may choose to continue wearing a mask, especially those in communities with lower vaccination rates and higher rates of disease.